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NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

Office of the State Climatologist

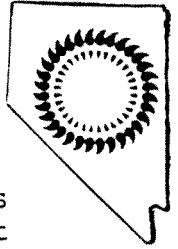
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SYNOPSIS

Documents Section

November was the ninth straight month with temperatures averaging near or above normal over most of Nevada. Along with this, below normal precipitation and above normal evaporation during the past four years have added to the water woes being experienced by most regions of the Silver State.

After the second month of the New Water Year, which runs from October 1, 1990 to September 30, 1991, only a small area in East Central Nevada has had above normal precipitation. In fact, due to a much drier than normal November most of Nevada's weather observers have recorded less than one-half normal precipitation. Of the major water producing areas of the State, the Sierra Nevada East Slope Watersheds are in the worst condition, with Water Year precipitation only about 1/3 normal. Thus, not only hasn't any headway been made in easing the four year drought, but most areas are falling further behind at the beginning of the new Water Year. Four of the five normally wettest months are yet to come (December--March), so the word critical is only tacked on the wall. Whether it is used or not will be decided during the next several weeks.

TEMPERATURE

Temperatures averaged within one degree of normal except in the Far West where it was 2-3 degrees warmer than normal, and in the lower Humboldt Watershed where averages were 2-3 degrees below long-term averages.

Temperature extremes this month were not very "extreme" as 86's were registered at Amargosa Valley Garey, Callville Bay and Laughlin, with -10 at Reese River O'Toole. These readings are far off the State November records of 98 and -23 degrees.

Lake Mead water temperatures continued to fall, going from 70 degrees to only 61 at months end.

PRECIPITATION

Only three small areas in the Northeast, Southeast, and Central portions of the State were wetter than normal this month. Lamoille and Jarbidge in the Northeast were the wettest, with 1.83" and 1.81", respectively. These were also the snowiest reporting stations, with Nathan Yost measuring 13" at Lamoille and Robert Karstaedt 14" at Jarbidge. The gage at the Zaga Ranch near Jiggs caught .76" on the 18th for the greatest 24 hour precipitation this month.

On the "dusty end" of the rain gage stick several observers had no measurable precipitation, including Debbie Michelson at Dyer, the Nevada Division of Highways crew at Smokey Valley, the Foote Mineral Company at Silverpeak, the Esmeralda County Sheriff's Office at Goldfield, the Hawthorne Airport, and Ranger Malcolm DeMunbrun at Boulder Beach.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were above normal in all except Eastern Nevada, where they were near normal. Las Vegas had 91% of the possible hours and a normal of only 80%, while Winnemucca had 67% and a normal of 55%. Reno skies were just a little sunnier than usual with 74% versus 71%, but Ely fell a tad below normal with only 65% of the possible hours and a normal of 67%.

Wind speeds averaged near normal in Far Western, Northern and Eastern Nevada, but were well above normal in the South and Northwest. Other than high mountaintop locations, peak wind gusts reached 40-50 mph in the Reno area, and up to 62 mph on the 25th at the Stead Fire Station, northwest of Reno.

Most evaporation pans were stored for the winter due to freeze-up, but the three that did operate all month had well above normal evaporation. Boulder City had 5.54" of pan water loss, about an inch above normal, Logandale 3.94", and Fallon Experiment Station 2.35", almost 1/2" higher the usual.

NOTE: Congratulations and many thanks are due to two of Nevada's longtime volunteer cooperative weather observers. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Stations at Desert National Wildlife Range at Corn Creek near Las Vegas, and at Ruby Lake in the Northeast, have completed 50 years of continuous daily weather observations. There have been many observers at both locations over the long 50 year span, but they all have one thing in common--compilation of nearly flawless daily records of weather conditions. Without such dedication of these and the many other cooperative observers in the State, little would be known of Nevada's diverse climates. MANY, MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

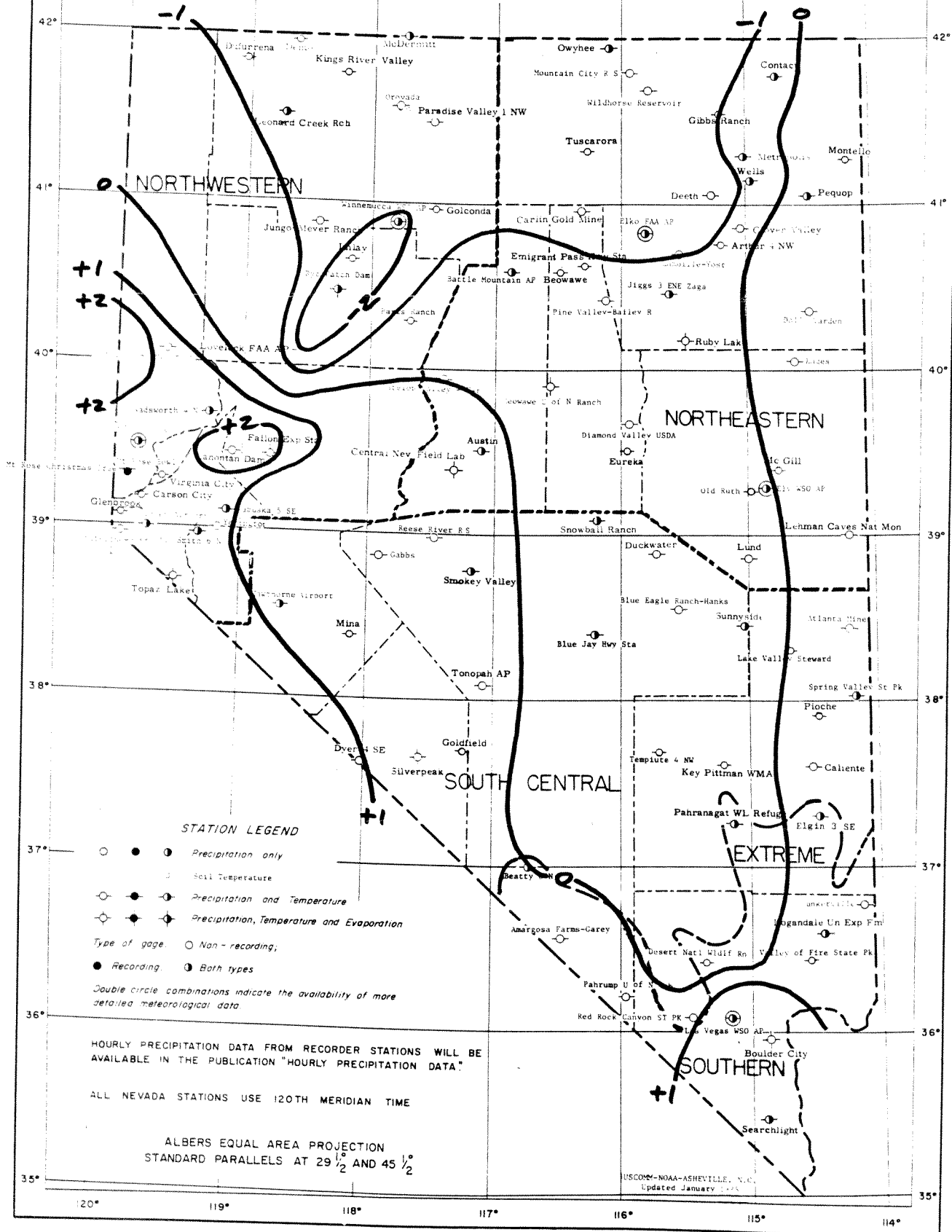
We wish you and yours a very HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

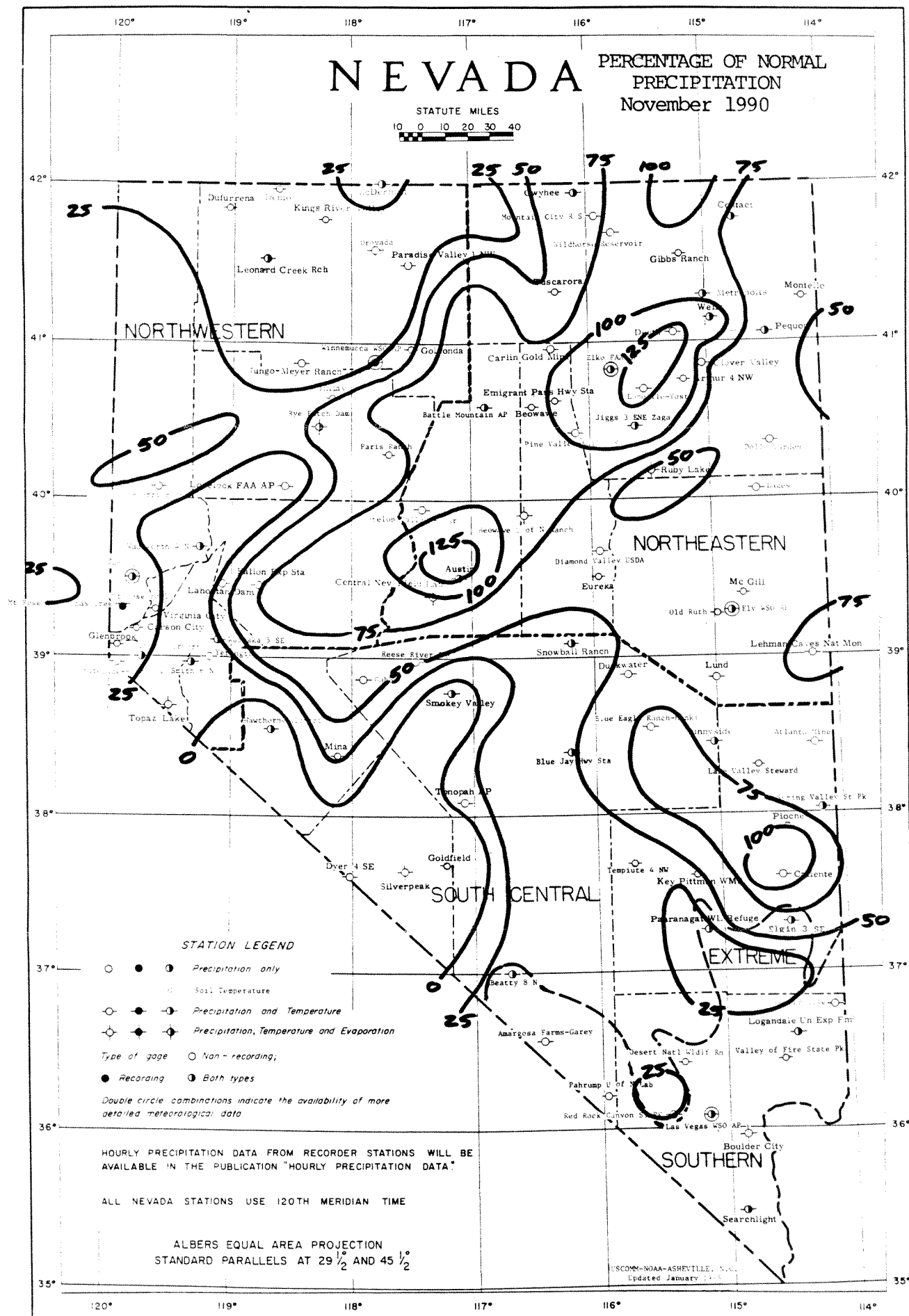
John, Dee, Eleona and Ted

NEVADA

DEPARTURE OF MEAN
TEMPERATURE FROM NORMAL (F°)
November 1990

STATUTE MILES
10 0 10 20 30 40





NEVADA

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL
PRECIPITATION
WATER YEAR 1990-91
(Oct. 1, 1990--Nov. 30, 1990)

STATUTE MILES
0 10 20 30 40

